

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Without acceding to the newly asserted rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Claim 1 has been cancelled in favor of newly presented Claim 22 which more particularly sets forth certain distinguishing features of the elected species (embodiment I, specification page 9, line 29-page 20, line 25). Referring to Claim 22, exemplary support for the recited method steps may be found in the drawings and the related description as follows: step (a), Fig. 3; steps (b)-(f), Fig. 4; steps (g)-(h), Fig. 5; step (i), Fig. 6; and step (j), Fig. 7.

Regarding the Lee et al. patent cited in the outstanding rejection, it is apparent that the reference is deficient at least with respect to steps (e) and (h) of Claim 22.

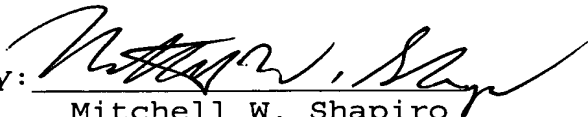
Accordingly, it is respectfully urged that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn and that this application now be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, and to

credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, then such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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